

~~SECRET~~NAVY review(s)
completed.ENCLOSUREPSYCHOLOGICAL WARFAREMemorandum by the Navy Member, SWNCC

The Navy Department has received a request from the Director, Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, for any information that may properly be given out concerning psychological warfare in the recent war with special reference to illustrations of its successful employment in bringing about the surrender of Japan and of enemy European countries. This request on the Navy Department stems from a similar request on the Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress by Senator Elbert Thomas of Utah who, it is understood, is preparing a bill for the strengthening of psychological warfare.

No official comprehensive surveys have been made by the Navy Department as to the success of psychological warfare in the premises. Spot evaluations have been evolved in certain instances and reflect at best the opinions of individuals. No scientific method or reliable criteria have been established to date to measure quantitatively the psychological intangibles and their effects on individuals.

The SWNC Subcommittee for Special Studies and Evaluations, operating within the authority prescribed in SWNCC 304/1 and 2, is presently studying and planning with a view to recommending a suitable organization within the Government for the discharge of psychological warfare functions in time of war. The security of the existence and transactions of the Subcommittee will require that presentation of information concerning psychological warfare with relation to legislative support should receive careful consideration.

In view of the foregoing, it is recommended that this matter be referred to the SWNC Subcommittee for Special Studies and Evaluations for study and report, and specifically to make recommendations upon which a reply to the Director, Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, may be based.

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